

The City of
Springfield
Ohio

Office of the City Manager

May 23, 2017

Chairman Ron Young
Ohio House Economic Development, Commerce, and Labor Committee

Dear Chairman Young and Members,

It has been brought to our attention that House Bill 128 contains special interest legislation that would allow a construction company to do an end-around their local building inspection enforcement. Under this bill, if a company does not like their inspection results, they can call another inspector effectively "shopping around" for an inspection they like.

Building officials protect the safety of people in Ohio and undermining their authority is a safety hazard. Building inspections are a core authority of the municipal government. We have controls and standards in current law through the Ohio Board of Building Standards oversight of the inspection process and local controls that require a head Building Official to approve of inspections done by Building Inspectors on site.

It is the building department's responsibility to protect the safety of the people in the jurisdiction they serve.

There are issues that are clearly Home Rule and there are gray areas in the law. This is not a gray area. There is no authority that is more central to local control than the ability to enforce the law, especially laws that protect the safety of people in the municipality. The General Assembly should not pass unconstitutional bills that undermine the authority of local governments to exercise their core functions.

Please take note and consider these implications before deciding whether or not to follow through with this Bill.

Sincerely,



Jim Bodenmiller
City Manager